

school student, Bette Ann Schroeder, at Wednesday's graduation ceremony:

I AM AN AMERICAN

I am an American.

My grandfather came from China in the 1800s and helped build the railroads of the West.

I am an American.

My grandfather came from England in the 1800s and worked in the coal mines of Illinois.

I am an American.

My grandfather came first over the Bering Strait and the Isthmus of Panama to roam the forests and valleys of this great land.

I am an American.

My grandfather came from Germany in the 19th Century and started Kindergartens.

I am an American.

My grandfather was captured in Africa and brought to slave in the cotton fields of the South.

I am an American.

My grandfather came from Japan in the 1900s and founded the abalone fishery in San Pedro.

I am an American.

My grandfather fled Pancho Villa in Mexico and worked in the fields of the Imperial Valley.

I am an American.

It was not easy to forget the homeland, to learn the language, to make a living, to struggle against bigotry, to change my ways.

I am an American.

I am all the cultures of the world, all the religions of the world, all the legends and lore of the world, all the struggles for freedom everywhere.

I am all of these, and all of these make me an American.

TRIBUTE TO RAY BURKHOLDER
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of northwest Ohio. On June 22 of this year, the family and friends of Ray Burkholder will gather to celebrate his 80th birthday which will occur on July 3.

Ray lived and farmed most his life in Pandora, OH. A member of the Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, Ray has been a leader in his community. He was an instrumental part of the Menmonite disaster team, always available to lend a hand to others. He served for many years as the Sunday school treasurer and is a recipient of both the Community Service Award of Pandora and the Outstanding Citizen Award of Pandora. This past year he served as First Grand Marshal of the Riley Creek Festival.

Birthdays are a wonderful time to recount memories and to look toward new horizons. Since Ray's birth he has been witness to tremendous revolutions in politics, technology, and society. However, I know his favorite memories are of his family and friends.

Americans would not be able to enjoy the blessings of our country without the tireless dedication of those who have the talent and

willingness to work for their community. Ray Burkholder, through his example of leadership and humility has enriched the lives of his neighbors in countless ways over the years. It is with great fondness that they will take a day to thank him for his warmth and generosity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes to Ray and his family for continued happiness and best wishes.

ISRAEL—A CORNERSTONE OF U.S.
NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I submit for my colleagues' consideration remarks I made June 8, 1997 before the Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club. My support for Israel is no secret among my friends in Congress. We cannot ignore the challenge that has been placed before us if we are to see Israel survive as a free and flourishing democratic state. Israel has always been, and must remain, a cornerstone of United States national security policy.

ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST: A VIEW FROM
CAPITOL HILL

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to be here among so many friends at a congregation known throughout the greater New York area for its strong ties to the Land of Israel. Your record of generous giving to Israeli causes and your commitment to a strong U.S.-Israeli relationship are well known.

Your congregation has always embodied the essence and vitality of "Am Yisrael Chai" and the sharing, giving spirit "Tikkum Olam." By your very example you have been a light unto our community. Through good times and bad, times of sadness and hope, the Great Neck Synagogue has stood by Israel in its eternal quest for peace with security.

Though many of you share different political opinions about how peace in the Middle East might finally be achieved, you stand united—indeed America stands united—on the need to maintain Israel's economic and military strength as a hedge against the uncertainties of the future.

My friends, we can never allow politics of the moment to obscure three essential facts of our time: first, that Israel exists today as a sovereign, democratic, and Jewish state precisely because it has never allowed its fundamental security interests to be compromised; second, that peace, particularly in the Middle East, has never flowed from weakness; and third, that support for a strong, self confident Israel has always been, and must remain, a cornerstone of United States national security policy.

Israel exists today not because of the world's caring or generosity toward the Jewish People, but in spite of its neglect and indifference. We must never forget the basic truth.

As we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Marshall Plan this week, we must remember that the United States stepped forward to rebuild Europe after the war—and particularly Germany—a full year before it gave any thought to relief for Germany's victims through the creation of a Jewish state. The lesson is clear: Israel's fate must always rest with Israel and with those who care for her; it can never be entrusted to the presumed good will of others.

History, my friends, is sometimes a cruel, but honest teacher. I am particularly honored to be here today to share with you some thoughts on the state of U.S.-Israeli relations, the Oslo process, and events unfolding in the Middle East, from the vantage point of Capitol Hill. At the outset, I must confess that I stand before you with more than a little concern.

Concern because a century after the First Zionist Congress, nearly 50 years since the founding of Israel, 30 years after the miraculous triumph of the IDF in the Six Day War, 20 years since Camp David and 4 years since the Oslo process began—Israel still does not know peace.

As we sit here this morning amid these comfortable and serene surroundings, Israel is facing perhaps the greatest threat to her survival yet experienced. It is a threat born not only of external enmity and aggression, but sadly, of internal division, social strife, political indecision and confusion, and the calamity of peace gone unfulfilled.

It is an unfortunate consequence of Israel's proud, but troubled history that we have grown all too accustomed to the hatred which her enemies harbor for the Jewish State—a state whose very existence continues to be the anathema to the 110 million Moslems who surround her.

Terrorist bombs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the murder of Jewish school girls on a class outing, the knifing of Yeshiva students on their way to the Kotel—these sights have become as familiar to the younger generation of Israelis as the weekly Vietnam body count was to my generation. My friends, we are living a tragedy today with no satisfactory end in sight.

Lamentably, we have learned the sad truth that weapons and military might alone can not bring peace. Sadder still, we have learned that a peace reluctantly born and brazenly violated by Israel's enemies is not peace either. There are no good choices left for Israel today. She has been cheated of the very hope, *Hativka*, for which her people proclaim in song and for which all Jews everywhere yearn.

Like you I have tried to make sense of the many contradictions that have arisen as a result of the Oslo process. I say Oslo process, and not peace process, because while there exists today only one process, I believe that there are many paths to peace—and I am a fervent believer in peace. But for it to be real, it must be lasting; for it to be lasting, it must be honest; for it to be honest, it must demonstrate at every turn the resolve of all of the parties to abide by the commitments they made on the day of the signing and in the subsequent agreements. Tragically, for all concerned, this has not happened.

Those Palestinians who had the chance to share in the prosperity of a reconstructed Middle East, and in doing so to accept something less than the full measure of their political demands, have opted instead for a more sinister path. They have chosen to use the dove of peace to conceal their more menacing intentions, just as Mr. Arafat, himself, chose to conceal a pistol beneath his jacket when he appeared before the United Nations General Assembly in the mid-seventies.

This song of peace is well worn in tune. Born of Hitler's deception at Munich in the 1938, it survives today in the guise of those who would have peace at any price, even if it meant admitting the Trojan Horse of the PLO terrorism inside the gates of the city. If we are to begin to understand what is now happening to Israel and to grasp the historic forces now at work to undo the dream of the last 100 years, we must first see that there is a distinction between negotiation and extortion, between reality and illusion, and between trust and deception.